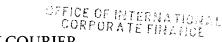
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BY COURIER

Securities and Exchange Commission Office of International Corporate Finance

Judiciary Plaza

450 Fifth Street, N.W.

USA - Washington, D.C. 20549

Your reference

File No. 82-5089

Our reference

AC/eh

Date

10/20/2004



Zurich Financial Services / File No. 82-5089; Information furnished to maintain Rule 12g 3-2 (b) exemption

Zurich Financial Services

Mythenquai 2 P.O. Box 8022 Zurich Switzerland

Dear Sirs

Enclosed herewith please find the English version of the following press release:

Phone +41 (0)1 625 25 25 http://www.zurich.com

Dir. phone +41 (0)1 625 25 24 Dir. fax +41 (0)1 625 36 06

andres.christen @zurich.com "Zurich Financial Services Group acquires Life portfolio from ING Argentina" dated October 20, 2004

Should there be any queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely Zurich Financial Services Legal Department

Andres Christen

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THOMSON FINANCIAL

Enclosure

Media Release



Zurich Financial Services Group acquires Life portfolio from ING in Argentina

Zurich Financial Services Media and Public Relations Mythenquai 2 P.O. Box 8022 Zurich Switzerland

Phone '+41 (0)1 625 21 00 Fax +41 (0)1 625 26 41 media@zurich.com http://www.zurich.com Zurich, October 20, 2004 – In order to strengthen the Life Insurance business in Argentina, Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) has signed an agreement with ING Insurance Argentina to acquire their Life business portfolio in Argentina. This includes the related assets and liabilities. The parties agreed to keep the transaction price confidential. As at December 31, 2003 the acquired business had gross written premiums, on a local statutory basis, of approximately USD 14 million (43 million Argentinean pesos). Pending regulatory approvals, the transaction is expected to close in early 2005.

Zurich Financial Services is an insurance-based financial services provider with a global network that focuses its activities on its key markets in North America and Europe. Founded in 1872, Zurich is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. Zurich has offices in more than 50 countries and employs about 62,000 people.

For further information please contact:

Zurich Financial Services, Media and Public Relations
8022 Zurich, Switzerland
Phone +41 (0)1 625 21 00, Fax +41 (0)1 625 26 41

http://www.zurich.com
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